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mount haggin
state recreation area

— management plan —

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MOUNT HAGGIN STATE RECREATION AREA
MANAGEMENT PLAN
1978 - 1982

I. Introduction

Mount Haggin State Recreation Area was acquired by the Montana Department of Fish and Game as a major area of 55,000 acres to benefit the people primarily of southwestern Montana with optimum dispersed recreation resources. As a state recreation area, Mt. Haggin is subject to the policies set forth in ARM 12-2.26 (1) - S2670 (b). Essentially these are:

1. To provide a broad selection of outdoor recreation.

2. To Maintain a natural setting

3. To serve a large number of people.

In the process of acquiring Mt. Haggin, the Department made several major commitments which approach policy. Among these the most important are:

1. Dispersed recreation is to be stressed, but the suitability of site oriented recreation will be evaluated.

2. Maintenance of a natural environment is to be stressed.

3. Wildlife habitat and population balances are to be stressed.

4. When wildlife habitat needs necessary to the maintenance of balanced populations are in conflict with the demands of recreationists, the wildlife needs will take priority whenever possible. Each conflict or potential conflict will be reviewed with the program administrators and regional supervisor by the deputy director for resolution.

Mt. Haggin constitutes an unusual, if not exceptional, management responsibility for the Department of Fish and Game for the following reasons:

1. The property constitutes one of the few experiences with multiple use management involving both livestock and commercial timber management in addition to the traditional management obligations of the Department.

2. The potentials of Mt. Haggin involve values which are truly multi-disciplinary and require closer coordination between Departmental Divisions and Programs than is traditional.

3. The eco-system of Mt. Haggin is complex and poorly understood thus prohibiting many of the assumptions to be made which would be permissible on other sites.

With these limiting factors in mind, the Department has three immediate tasks which are necessary to a responsible management program. These are:

1. Establish a clear delineation of management responsibility within the Department.

2. Establish those immediate tasks which must be accomplished within the next two years in order to protect the site.

3. Establish a schedule for inventory and research so that the basic understanding of the eco-system and cultural values is established as well as a schedule to assure that this evolving understanding is integrated into the management plan in a timely, efficient manner.

This management plan addresses each of these tasks as separate entities.

II. Organization of Responsibilities

Table I illustrates the basic organization of responsibilities for Mt. Haggin.

A. Phase A (Staff) consists of the Deputy Director and the Administrators of Wildlife, Fish, and Parks. It shall be their task to:

> Establish on an advisory basis for the Director's consideration, the broad policies and program for Mt. Haggin. This includes financial allocations needed to assure adequate implementation of policies, tasks, and work schedules. The program staff shall evaluate the effectiveness of policies and the program and periodically revise this management plan (see section V) in consultation with the Regional Supervisor.

B. Phase B (Line) consists of the Region 3 Supervisor and the Region 3 staff. It shall be the task of the Region 3 Supervisor to:

> Implement and coordinate the policies and program established by the Director.

Between Phase A and Phase B, there is a need for close coordination and cooperation. Particularly, results of studies, inventories and research must be interpreted, and Phase A staff must be advised as to potential priorities and needed policies, regulations and financial requirements. The primary facilitator of this coordination shall be the Deputy Director.

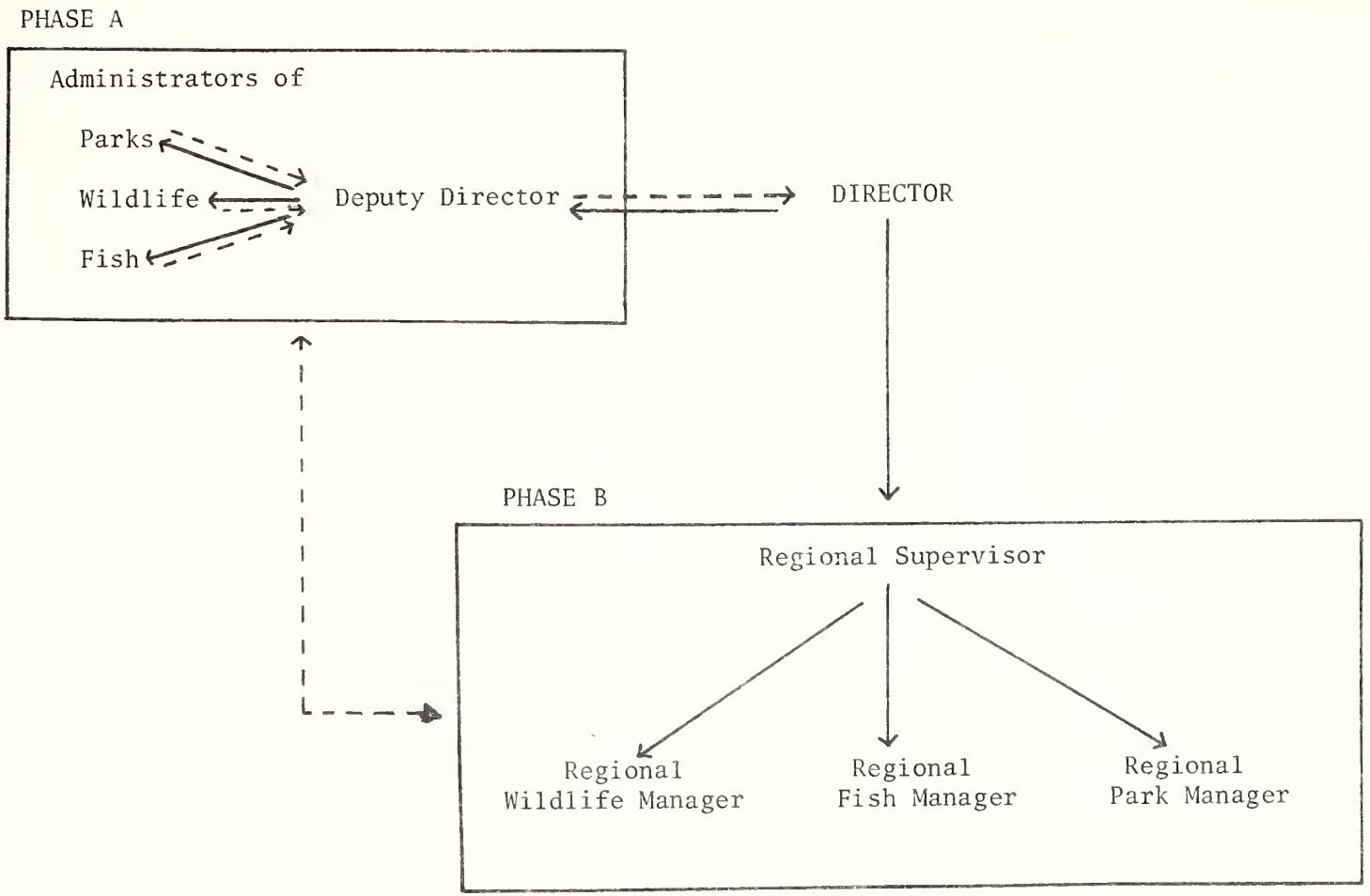

TABLE I

ORGANIZATION OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

MT. HAGGIN STATE RECREATION AREA

----- Policy & Program Recommendations & Technical Assistanc

——— Line Authority

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III. Immediate Tasks

Though knowledge of the eco-system and cultural values of Mt. Haggin is insufficient to the preparation of a full management plan at this time, certain problems are apparent which must be addressed immediately. These immediate tasks fall into two categories - interim regulations and facilities.

A. Interim regulations: Because use of the area is now permitted, some regulations are necessary to assure that this use is adequately managed. Regulations are subject to change through due process as new information becomes available or as intolerable situations arise. These regulations are:

1. Current state hunting regulations will prevail.

2. Current state fishing regulations will prevail.

3. Snowmobiles are permitted to use the recreation area except on identified and posted big game winter range.

4. Except for snowmobiles, all vehicular travel is restricted to established roads, and all roads are subject to closure as posted.

Enforcement: The enforcement of these regulations is anticipated to require _____ FTE's through 1981.

Amt. _____
Funding Source _____

B. Structures:

1. Provision of parking area suitable for snowmobiler use on Highway 274 at California Creek along with such signing and other support facilities as may be necessary.
   FTE's _____
   Amt. _____
   Funding Source _____

2. Maintain boundary fences and construct 5 miles of new boundary fence.
   FTE's _____
   Amt. _____
   Funding Source _____

3. Installation of 6 to 8 metal gates and cattleguards at major access points and provision of such signing as is necessary.

   FTE's _____
   Amt. _____
   Funding Source _____

4. Rehabilitation of culverts where their condition is causing erosion.

   FTE's _____
   Amt. _____
   Funding Source _____

5. Removal of deteriorated fences and old homesteads, except that no homestead will be disturbed until completion of the cultural inventory (see section IV.C.3).

Except as otherwise noted, all work encompassed within this section will be completed by October 1, 1979.

IV. Five Year Tasks: The goal of the five year tasks is to gain an understanding of the eco-system and cultural values of Mt. Haggin sufficient to permit the evolution of a concrete long range management plan. In order to accomplish this, a considerable inventory effort will be necessary, and as each years inventories are completed, it will be necessary to re-evaluate and amend or revise this plan (see section V). The long range inventory work is delineated below under the three major programs and under a multi-program category:

A. Wildlife:

Goal of Inventory Work: To gain sufficient knowledge to prepare a long range management plan by habitat type and species which will assure that game and non-game species are maintained at their optimum populations.

Tasks:

1. Inventory habitat to identify areas critical to wildlife.

2. Periodic enumeration of wildlife with initial emphasis on big game.

3. Measurement of distribution and movement of elk, mule deer and moose herd segments.

4. Determine presence of other game and non-game species and measure their distribution.

5. Determine extent of waterfowl nesting.

6. Determine hunter distribution and harvest levels.

Project Manager: R-3 Wildlife Manager

		Anticipated	
1978 FTE	_____	1979 FTE	_____
Amt	_____	Amt	_____
Source	_____	Source	_____

B. Fish:
Goal of Inventory Work: To gain sufficient knowledge to prepare a long range management plan and positive flow reservation program which will assure that wild trout species are maintained at their optimum populations.

Tasks:

1. Inventory fish populations.

2. Inventory fish habitat.

3. Inventory of water quality

4. Inventory of water use and flow reservations.

5. Inventory of recreational use of fisheries resources.

Project Manager: R-3 Fish Manager

		Anticipated	
1978 FTE	_____	1979 FTE	_____
Amt	_____	Amt	_____
Source	_____	Source	_____

C. Parks
Goal of Inventory Work: To gain sufficient knowledge of Mt. Haggin to prepare a long range management plan including a long range construction program which assures that recreation exclusive of hunting and fishing will be provided at an optimum long-term level and that cultural resources will be protected and in some cases restored and interpreted for public enjoyment.

Tasks:

1. Continuous seasonal monitoring of summer recreation activity.

2. Continuous seasonal monitoring of winter activities.

3. Cultural resources reconnaissance.

Project Manager: R-3 Park Manager

		Anticipated	
1978 FTE	_____	1979 FTE	_____
Amt	_____	Amt	_____
Source	_____	Source	_____

D. Multi-Program

1. Road Inventory - in order to provide a vehicle management plan, an inventory will be conducted to determine location, importance in providing access, condition, and season of use.

Because of continuous logging activity and related road additions, the road inventory will be on-going for several years. However, a preliminary road management plan will be provided to the Deputy Director with other reports not later than January 2, 1979.

Project Manager: R-3 Supervisor

1978 FTE's	_____	Anticipated 1979 FTE's	_____
Amt	_____	Amt	_____
Source	_____	Source	_____

2. Livestock: Determine needed fences, monitor seasonal distribution of livestock, establish vegetation monitoring transects. The objective is to establish a long term rest/rotation grazing system. The status of this system will be reported to the Deputy Director by January 2, 1979.

Project Manager: R-3 Supervisor

1978 FTE's	_____	Anticipated 1979 FTE's	_____
Amt	_____	Amt	_____
Source	_____	Source	_____

3. Timber Management: The Department will continue to maintain close working relations with a consulting forester in order to gain a clearer understanding of obligations imposed by existing contracts, to coordinate associated road and bridge construction, and to maintain an effective fire management and slash disposal program. The Deputy Director shall be reported to on a timely basis with respect to timber management developments which may adversely affect the management of fish and wildlife or other recreation resources or visitor uses.

Project Manager: R-3 Supervisor

1978 FTE's	_____	Anticipated 1979 FTE's	_____
Amt	_____	Amt	_____
Source	_____	Source	_____

V. Reporting and Revision:

Any portion of this plan may be altered through due process at anytime that the situation may merit. However, at the minimum, the R-3 Supervisor shall report to the Deputy Director by January 2 of each year.

The report will contain a summary of the inventory work completed in the previous year, the implications of findings for management, a schedule of inventory work to be completed in the forthcoming year with an analysis of the financial and man-power needs to accomplish these tasks and suggestions as to needed alterations in this management plan, or other regulations and policies. After consultation with the Program Administrators, the Deputy Director shall submit an amended or revised plan to the Director for his consideration and action by May 1st of each year. The report for May 1, 1982 will contain recommendations for an additional five year management plan including proposals for the Long Range Building Program, a Long Range Livestock Management Plan, a Long Range Timber Management Plan, a Road Management Plan and a Wildlife, Fish and Parks Management Plan.